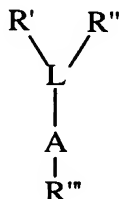


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

10. (currently amended) A[[n]] composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises at least two isomers of the formula:



wherein:

L is an acyclic aliphatic hydrocarbonyl of from 6 to 18 carbon atoms in total;

R' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

R'' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

both R' and R'' are nonterminally attached to L and at least one of R' and R'' is C₁ to

C₃ alkyl;

R''' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; and

A is an aromatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene, and mixtures thereof;

wherein:

said ~~alkylaryl~~ composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to L;

in at least about 60% of said ~~alkylaryl~~ composition, A is attached to L in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof; and

wherein further said ~~alkylary~~ composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in L of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

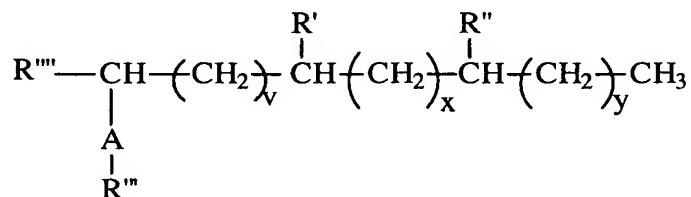
13. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 2 wherein A is benzene.

14. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 2 wherein A is toluene.

15. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl or ethyl.

16. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl.

17. (currently amended) A[[n]] composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises at least two isomers, counted exclusive of ortho-, meta-, para-, and stereoisomers, of the formula:



wherein A is an aromatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene, and mixtures thereof; R''' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; R' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; R'' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; and R'''' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₄ alkyl; v is an integer from 0 to 10; x is an integer from 0 to 10; y is an integer from 0 to 10;

wherein:

the total number of carbon atoms attached to A is less than about 20;

said composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to the moiety

R''''-C(-)H(CH₂)_vC(-)H(CH₂)_xC(-)H(CH₂)_y-CH₃ of this formula;

at least one of R' and R'' is C₁ to C₃ alkyl; when R'''' is C₁, the sum of v + x + y is at least 1; and when R'''' is H, the sum of v + x + y is at least 2; and

in at least about 60% of said ~~alkylaryl~~ composition, A is attached to the moiety

R''''-C(-)H(CH₂)_vC(-)H(CH₂)_xC(-)H(CH₂)_y-CH₃ in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof;

wherein further said composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in the moiety

R''''-C(-)H(CH₂)_vC(-)H(CH₂)_xC(-)H(CH₂)_y-CH₃

of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 8 wherein A is benzene.

21. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 8 wherein A is toluene.

22. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 7 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl or ethyl.

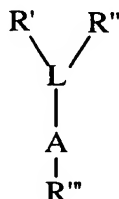
23. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 7 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl.

24. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 7 wherein at least about 80% of said composition, A is attached to R'''-CH(CH₂)_vCH(CH₂)_xCH(CH₂)_y-CH₃ in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof.

25. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 7 wherein R''' is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

26. (currently amended) A[[n]] composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises:

a) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of an composition comprising at least two isomers of the formula:



wherein:

L is an acyclic aliphatic hydrocarbyl of from 6 to 18 carbon atoms in total;

R' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

R'' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl;

both R' and R'' are nonterminally attached to L and at least one of R' and R'' is C₁ to

C₃ alkyl;

R''' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; and

A is an aromatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene, and mixtures thereof;

wherein:

said composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R" and A to L;

in at least about 60% of said composition, A is attached to L in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof; and

wherein further said composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in L of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present; and

b) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of at least one isomer of the linear analog of said composition of (a).

27. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 15 wherein at least about 80% of said composition, A is attached to L in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof.

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 17 wherein A is benzene.

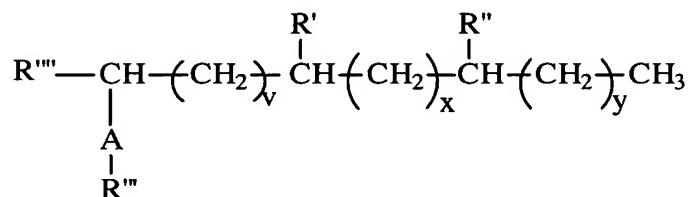
31. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 17 wherein A is toluene.

32. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 15 wherein one of R' and R" is methyl or ethyl.

33. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 20 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl.

34. (currently amended) A[[n]] composition suitable as a source for making alkylarylsulfonate surfactants, wherein said composition comprises:

a) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of an composition comprising at least two isomers, counted exclusive of ortho-, meta-, para- and stereoisomers, of an alkylaryl of the formula:



wherein A is an aromatic hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene, and mixtures thereof; R''' is selected from H and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; R' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; R'' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₃ alkyl; and R''' is selected from hydrogen and C₁ to C₄ alkyl; v is an integer from 0 to 10; x is an integer from 0 to 10; y is an integer from 0 to 10;

wherein:

the total number of carbon atoms attached to A is less than about 20;

said composition comprises two or more isomers with respect to positions of attachment of R', R'' and A to the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH₂)_vC(-)H(CH₂)_xC(-)H(CH₂)_y-CH₃ of this formula;

at least one of R' and R'' is C₁ to C₃ alkyl; when R''' is C₁, the sum of v + x + y is at least 1; and when R''' is H, the sum of v + x + y is at least 2; and

in at least about 60% of said composition, A is attached to the moiety

R'''-C(-)H(CH₂)_vC(-)H(CH₂)_xC(-)H(CH₂)_y-CH₃ in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof;

wherein further said composition has a ratio of nonquaternary to quaternary carbon atoms in the moiety



of at least about 10:1 by weight, when said quaternary carbon atoms are present;
and

b) from about 0.01% to about 99.99% by weight of at least one isomer of the linear analog of said composition of (a).

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 23 wherein A is benzene.

38. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 23 wherein A is toluene.

39. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl or ethyl.

40. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 26 wherein one of R' and R'' is methyl.

41. (previously presented) The composition according to Claims 22 wherein at least about 80% of said composition, A is attached to $R'''-CH(CH_2)_vCH(CH_2)_xCH(CH_2)_y-CH_3$ in the position which is selected from positions alpha- and beta- to either of the two terminal carbon atoms thereof.

42. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 22 wherein R''' is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.